

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Claims Listing

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
placing a sample in contact with a device, wherein at least a portion of the device comprises a plurality of zones, wherein at least one zone is a detection zone capable of being separated from said plurality of zones and the remainder of the device; wherein the detection zone comprises an immobilized binding partner for an analyte and wherein binding between the immobilized binding partner and a suspected analyte causes formation of a detectable signal and detection of the signal indicates the presence of a suspected analyte in the sample;
separating at least part of the ~~portion of the device~~ detection zone containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner from said plurality of zones and the remainder of the device; and
analyzing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner without detaching the bound analyte from the immobilized binding partner to provide information regarding the suspected analyte.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the device is a lateral flow device.
3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the information identifies the suspected analyte.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the information describes one or more characteristics of the suspected analyte.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
placing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner in conditions effective to cause the quantity of the suspected analyte to increase; and
separating at least part of the suspected analyte from the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner after an increase in the quantity of the suspected analyte.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the analyte is an organism and analyzing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner comprises placing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner on or in a selective growth medium in which the analyte will proliferate if present.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the method further comprises storing the device without further processing for up to five days after placing the sample in contact with the device and before separating the ~~portion of the device~~ detection zone containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner from the plurality of zones and the remainder of the device.

8. (Withdrawn) A method for isolating or concentrating a substance consisting essentially of:

placing a substance in contact with a device, wherein at least a portion of the device comprises an immobilized binding partner for an analyte and wherein binding between the immobilized binding partner and a suspected analyte causes formation of a detectable signal and detection of the signal indicates the presence of the suspected analyte in the substance;

separating the portion of the device containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner from the remainder of the device; and

analyzing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner to provide information regarding the suspected analyte.

9. (Currently Amended) A kit for performing the method of claim 1, comprising a device; wherein at least a portion of the device comprises a ~~detection zone~~ plurality of zones, wherein at least one zone is a detection zone; wherein the detection zone comprises an immobilized binding partner for an analyte, and is capable of being separated from said plurality of zones and the remainder of the device and analyzed to provide information regarding the bound analyte.; ~~and wherein the detection zone or a portion thereof is separable from the remainder of the device.~~

10. (Currently Amended) A device wherein at least a portion of the device comprises a plurality of zones, wherein at least one zone is a detection zone capable of being separated from said plurality of zones and the remainder of the device; ~~detection zone~~; wherein the detection zone comprises an immobilized binding partner for an analyte; and wherein binding between the immobilized binding partner and a suspected analyte causes formation of a detectable signal in the detection zone, and wherein the device comprises structural features that facilitate separation of the detection zone containing the bound analyte and the immobilized binding partner or a part of the detection zone containing the bound analyte and the immobilized binding partner from the plurality of zones and the remainder of the device., wherein said detection zone or part thereof can be analyzed to provide information regarding the bound analyte.

11. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the substance is a food or soil contaminant.

12. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the substance is a microorganism.

13. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the substance is a pathogen.

14. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 8, wherein the device is a lateral flow device.

15. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 8, wherein the information identifies the suspected analyte.

16 (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 8, wherein the information describes one or more characteristics of the suspected analyte.

17. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 8, further comprising:
placing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner in conditions effective to cause the quantity of the suspected analyte to increase; and
separating at least part of the suspected analyte from the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner after an increase in the quantity of the suspected analyte.

18. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 8, wherein the analyte is an organism and analyzing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner comprises placing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner on or in a selective growth medium in which the analyte will proliferate if present.

19. (Withdrawn) The method of Claim 8, wherein the method further comprises storing the device without further processing for up to five days after placing the sample in contact with the device and before separating the portion of the device containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner from the remainder of the device.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10, wherein the device is a lateral flow device.

21. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein analyzing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner to provide information regarding the suspected analyte comprises analyzing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner using a strip test binding assay, an agglutination assay, a DNA polymerase chain reaction test, a motility test, a toxicology test, serotyping, selective media or selective agar plating.

22. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein analyzing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner to provide information regarding the suspected analyte comprises analyzing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner using a DNA polymerase chain reaction test.

23. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein analyzing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner to provide information regarding the suspected analyte comprises analyzing the portion containing the bound analyte and immobilized binding partner using selective media or selective agar plating.

24. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the substance is *Escherichia coli*, *Salmonella* or *Listeria*.

25. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 8, wherein the substance is *Escherichia coli* O157:H7.